

Message Text

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SUBJ: NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ON QUEBEC-U.S. CONTACTS

1. ARTICLE BY ANDRE PATRY ENTITLED "LA POLITIQUE AMERICAINE DU QUEBEC" APPEARED ON EDITORIAL PAGE OF LE DEVOIR OF DECEMBER 14. ARTICLE EMPHASIZES IMPORTANCE OF RELATIONS AND CONTINUING CONTACTS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF QUEBEC GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE IN U.S., INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF USG, AND REFERS TO MEETING IN 1964 BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF QUEBEC GOVERNMENT AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.

2. AUTHOR STATES THAT INFLUENCE OF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF QUEBEC HAS NEVER BEEN UNDERESTIMATED IN QUEBEC AND THAT ONE MUST NOTE INSTRUMENTAL ROLE OF U.S. BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN PROVIDING "STAMP OF RESPECTIBILITY" FOR QUEBEC IN REST OF WORLD. U.S. DISENCHANTMENT WITH QUEBEC WOULD QUICKLY BE REFLECTED IN ATTITUDE OF OTHER INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS.

3. ARTICLE THEN GOES ON TO STATE THAT EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN QUEBEC AND U.S. TOOK PLACE IN 1964, WHEN CLAUDE MORIN, THEN DEPUTY MINISTER OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS, HAD A LONG INTERVIEW WITH U.S. CONSUL GENERAL IN MONTREAL, WHO WISHED TO

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QUESTION MORIN ON LONG TERM OBJECTIVES OF THE "QUIET REVOLUTION". ARTICLE STATES THAT CONVERSATION WAS SUFFICIENTLY INTERESTING TO LEAD MR. MORIN TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO STATE DEPARTMENT TO "TAKE THE PULSE" OF WASHINGTON. AS A RESULT OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT, QUEBEC'S EMISSARY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD WORRY

ABOUT THE SITUATION IN QUEBEC ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT IT CONSTITUTED A DANGER FOR CONTINENTAL SECURITY. WHILE NATURALLY THE AMERICANS WOULD NOT BE HAPPY TO SEE AN EVENTUAL WEAKENING OF CANADA, THEY RECOGNIZED THAT QUEBEC WAS SOMETHING PARTICULAR AND THAT ITS OWN PERSONALITY MIGHT WELL ONE DAY LEAD TO A NEW DEFINITION OF ITS PLACE IN CANADA.

4. AFTER NOTING THAT QUEBEC HAS CONTINUED TO INCREASE ITS CONTACTS WITH THE U.S. THROUGH THE OPENING OF OFFICES IN U.S. CITIES, ARTICLE SUGGESTS NEED FOR ARGUMENTING THESE CONTACTS. AUTHOR POINTS OUT, HOWEVER, THAT AN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON IS PROBABLY NOT NECESSARY, AND THAT MOREOVER, IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE WELCOMED BY U.S. OFFICIALS AT THIS TIME. AUTHOR BELIEVES THAT WHEN NEW PQ GOVERNMENT OF QUEBEC BEGINS TO EXAMINE ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, IT WILL PLACE GREATER IMPORTANCE ON ITS AMERICAN DOSSIER. IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO EXPAND THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF QUEBEC'S OFFICES IN THE U.S., WHICH HAVE LARGELY ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITIES AT PRESENT, SO THAT THEY MAY BECOME THE "PERMANENT SPOKESMEN IN ALL AMERICAN MILIEUS OF QUEBEC'S PEOPLE WHO ARE PURSUING THE AFFIRMATION OF THEIR OWN PERSONALITY". BECAUSE AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION IS ALL-POWERFUL, AUTHOR BELIEVES THAT A DISCREET AND EFFECTIVE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN WILL BE GIVEN PRIORITY ATTENTION WHEN OFFICIALS IN QUEBEC BEGIN TO STUDY QUEBEC'S RELATIONS WITH AMERICANS.

COMMENT: AS INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY HERE STOPS WELL AFTER 1964, CONSULATE UNABLE TO COMMENT ON ALLEGED CONVERSATION BETWEEN MORIN, WHO IS NOW QUEBEC'S MINISTER OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL UNCLASSIFIED

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AFFAIRS, AND US CONSUL GENERAL. WE SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT AUTHOR'S CONCLUSIONS ARE CORRECT THAT PQ WILL UPGRADE IMPORTANCE OF ITS RELATIONS AND CONTACTS WITH AMERICANS AS IT ATTEMPTS MOVE TOWARD GOAL OF INDEPENDENCE. BUT AT SAME TIME WE DOUBT, RE "ESPANDED RESPONSIBILITIES" OF QUEBEC REPRESENTATIVES, THAT PQ WOULD SEEK TO MAKE VISIBLE POLITICAL EFFORT TO RECRUIT SUPPORT OF AMERICANS FOR QUEBEC'S CAUSE. SHOULD THIS EVER HAPPEN, USG WOULD BE PLACED IN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT SITUATION. OUR DOUBT IS BASED ON ASSUMPTION PQ WOULD PROBABLY RECOGNIZE THIS AS NOT REDOUNDING TO ITS INTERESTS. HARPER

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